

HAS DONE MUCH.

The Work of the Ohio Valley Improvement Association

DETAILED BY PRESIDENT VANCE

In a Preliminary Report to the Members. Free Navigation on the Monongahela is Assured—Various Improvements Proposed—Coming Meeting of the Association in Pittsburgh—Secretary Wilson Tells of its Importance.

The Ohio Valley Improvement Association which was organized in Cincinnati last October, has done more in the cause of river improvement than had been accomplished in years before. It made its gallant fight before the rivers and harbors committee of Congress last winter. Recently the association has been laying on its oars, but at the coming meeting in Pittsburgh, which is to be held on the second Tuesday in November, there will be renewed activity.

Secretary E. P. Wilson, of Cincinnati, has sent out a preliminary report made by President John L. Vance, of Gallipolis, accompanied by a letter of his own. He takes pleasure in submitting a communication from the president of the association, which is in the nature of a preliminary report, and will be supplemented by a fuller and more detailed account of the work through its president; whose report will be laid before the annual convention of the association, at Pittsburgh, during the second week of November, Secretary Wilson says:

"The association and the entire citizenship of the Ohio valley may be congratulated upon this substantial evidence of the inauguration of a broad, comprehensive and liberal system of internal improvement which has been entered upon by the United States government, which in its progress and accomplishment must contribute untold millions to the wealth and wealth-producing capacity of the entire section penetrated by the Ohio river and its tributaries. This association is in its infancy, not yet one year old, its influence in bringing about what has been accomplished in the direct line of its original purposes during the last year, is undeniable and should afford the strongest incentive for a permanent, energetic prosecution of the work thus auspiciously begun.

"The survey of the Ohio river, which, much to the surprise of many interested parties, had never heretofore been provided for, is now an assured fact, and is an essential condition precedent to its permanent improvement. It is within the province of the officers and members of the association and of our citizens at large, to urge that this survey be pushed vigorously to a thorough completion. Following the survey, which is essential to the attainment of the proper location of future permanent improvements, the nature of those improvements should be determined, defined, insisted upon, and provided for by the same method of continuous contract work which has been inaugurated upon the headwaters and tributaries of our great river.

"The appropriation and continuous availability of the sum of \$50,000 per annum, to keep the river clear of obstructions, by wrecks, snags, etc., affords assurance of practical efficiency in that valuable arm of service, which has heretofore been crippled one-half the year by reason of an insufficient income of only \$25,000. The provision for continuous contract service, whereby work inaugurated can be pushed to completion without additional legislation, is a feature upon which our constituents are to be especially congratulated. This system of improvement once inaugurated must be fostered and insisted upon until, from its source to its mouth, the Ohio river will present one continuous system of locks and dams affording a fair stage of water during all seasons of the year, upon which the illimitable output of the forests and mines which skirt our river, can be continually forwarded to its market.

"This much your association has accomplished. What it may accomplish in the future depends upon the energy and continuous effort of its membership. You are earnestly requested to unite in the membership of this association and to attend the annual convention which will be held in Pittsburgh on the second Tuesday of November, next."

President Vance's report follows: "That you may understand, to some extent at least, the result of the efforts inaugurated by the convention held at Cincinnati on the 26th and 27th of October, 1895, and which resulted in the organization of the Ohio Valley Improvement Association, I beg to submit the following: The figures in each instance are taken from the act of June 3, 1896, known as the rivers and harbors bill.

Free Navigation.

"You will remember that great and deserved stress was laid upon the fact that tolls are collected upon the Monongahela river, and the Pittsburgh and other delegates from Pennsylvania, together with large numbers from West Virginia, and other states, were particularly desirous of the removal of this embargo upon commerce.

"It is provided in the law that the secretary of war institute, and carry to completion, proceedings for the condemnation of the property, and its appurtenances, of the Monongahela Navigation Company, said condemnation proceedings to be as prescribed, and regulated by the provisions of the general Railroad Law of Pennsylvania and its supplements, except that the United States shall not be required to give any bond, and except that jurisdiction of said proceedings is given by the circuit court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania, with right of appeal by either party to the supreme court of the United States.

"To carry this into effect, the sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, was appropriated by the act of June 3, 1895, and it was further provided that upon final judgment being entered therein, the secretary of war was to be authorized to draw his warrant on the secretary of the treasury for the amount of said judgment, and said amount for the payment thereof was appropriated under said act last named. In a word, full provision was made for the condemnation and purchase of the property of the Monongahela Navigation Company, when carried into effect, will free the commerce of that river from taxation in the way of tolls.

Improvement of the Ohio.

"An appropriation of \$30,000 was made for beginning work on dams Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5, of which amount \$20,000 was appropriated for the purchase of sites for Nos. 3, 4 and 5, the site for No. 2 having been provided for the act of 1892. And it was further provided that contracts may be entered into by the secretary of war to the amount of \$1,000,000, exclusive of the \$20,000 named above, for the procurement and completion of work upon locks Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5, \$25,000 was appropriated for the completion of lock No. 6, \$250,000 was appropriated for the Ohio river improvement in general, of which sum \$5,000 were set aside for a survey which has gone to work to execute this part of the law. In addition to this, the sum of \$200,000 was appropriated for pre-

liminary examinations, surveys, etc., of various rivers and harbors, among which is enumerated the Ohio river from Marietta to its mouth.

"Improving the falls of the Ohio river, and Indiana, Clute Falls, \$10,000; the secretary of war may enter into contracts for such material and work as may be necessary to complete the present project of improvement, not exceeding in the aggregate \$317,250,000, exclusive of the amount herein appropriated. The amount provided for the Ohio river proper aggregates \$2,322,250.

Improvement of Tributaries.

"Appropriations were also made as follows:

"Allegheny river, for continuing improvement, \$12,500.

"Continuing improvement at lock and dam at Herr Island, on the Allegheny river, and commencing the construction and continuing work on two additional dams on the Allegheny river above the head of Six Mile Island, and at Springdale, \$50,000; providing that contracts may be entered into for material work to complete these projects aggregating \$951,000, exclusive of the amount herein and heretofore appropriated.

"Continuing improvement of Elk river, \$2,000.

"Guyandotte river, West Virginia, for maintenance, \$1,000.

"Gauley river, West Virginia, continuing improvement, \$3,000.

"Little Kanawha river, West Virginia, maintenance, \$1,500.

"Upper Monongahela river, West Virginia, continuing improvements, \$30,000; \$10,000 of which may be used for the location and sites for dams within said improvement. And the secretary of war may place the construction of six dams heretofore recommended and reported by the United States engineers on the Monongahela river, West Virginia, under contract at a sum not exceeding \$1,200,000.

"For improving Cumberland river, in Kentucky and Tennessee, continuing improvement between the state of Tennessee and town of Burnside, \$20,000, to be expended in purchasing sites for locks and dams, Nos. 21 and 22, etc.; to cover the location and sites for locks and dams, \$50,000; continuing improvement, \$50,000.

"Improving Cumberland river above Nashville, continuing improvement; the secretary of war is authorized to enter into contracts for the whole or any part of locks Nos. 5, 6 and 7, above Nashville, not to exceed \$600,000, exclusive of amounts heretofore appropriated.

"Improving Tennessee river below Chattanooga, Tennessee, \$50,000.

"Improving Tennessee river above Chattanooga, Tennessee, \$15,000.

"For continuing improvement of Kentucky river, continuing improvement, \$50,000; the secretary of war is authorized to enter into contracts not exceeding in the aggregate \$1,319,000, of which sum \$53,000, or as much as is necessary, may be expended in addition to \$50,000 herein appropriated in continuing the construction and completion of lock and dam No. 7, by contract or otherwise.

"Continuing improvement on Rough river, Kentucky, \$43,000.

"For maintenance, improvement on Lewis Fork, Big Sandy river, \$1,000.

"For maintenance, improvement on Tug Fork of Big Sandy river, \$2,000.

"Continuing improvement of lock No. 5, Green river, Kentucky, \$20,000.

"Improving Big Sandy near Louisa, Kentucky, continuing construction of movable dam, \$30,000.

"For improving Wabash river above Vincennes, \$6,000.

"Improving Wabash river below Vincennes, continuing improvement, \$15,000.

"Completing improvement of White river, Indiana, \$2,000.

"Examinations or surveys were provided for as follows:

"Tennessee river, Kentucky; mouth of Tennessee river; Green river, at or near its mouth; for new lock and dam at mouth of Cumberland river; Allegheny river, to determine what remaining portion of said river can be made navigable, about the number of locks, and the cost of the necessary dams therefor.

"Clearing of Snags and Wrecks.

"Of the appropriation of \$250,000 made for the Ohio river, it was provided that \$35,000, if necessary, might be expended for snagging purposes. In addition to that, section 3 of the rivers and harbors bill of 1896 modified, or amended, the act of 1890, by which an annual appropriation of \$50,000 becomes available for removing wrecks and other obstructions from the Ohio river.

"This foots up a grand total for the Ohio river and its tributaries, of Seven Million Six Hundred and Fifty-five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty dollars, \$7,655,750, exclusive of the amount (to be fixed by court) appropriated to purchase the property of the Monongahela Navigation Company, and also exclusive of such share of the \$200,000 appropriated for preliminary examinations, surveys, etc., as may be apportioned to the Ohio and certain of its tributaries."

THE NORTH STREET

M. E. Congregation Feels a Deep Regret Over the Approaching Departure of Rev. N. H. Johnson—Resolutions Passed.

The congregation of the North Street M. E. church, deeply regrets the approaching departure of its pastor, Rev. N. H. Johnson has been in charge of the North Street flock for four years and in that time has endeared himself to his people. Many citizens outside of the church, also, will regret to know of his departure from Wheeling.

Resolutions have been passed by the congregation, as follows:

Whereas, Reverend N. H. Johnson has closed almost four years of service as pastor of the North Street M. E. church and is now about to sever his connection with us, therefore resolved,

That we believe we voice the sentiment of the entire membership in stating that his term as our pastor has been one of mutually pleasant relations and profit.

That he cheerfully state that Brother Johnson has faithfully and conscientiously performed all the duties as pastor, and that we part with him with the very best christian feeling and hearty wishes for his future welfare and success.

We also recognize the pleasant relations that have existed between Brother Johnson's family and the membership of the church, and we will always look back with pleasure upon the four years that they have spent in our midst.

The Epworth League of the North Street church passed the following:

We, the officers and members of the Epworth League of the North Street

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